

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 209384

16
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EA-07 OMB-01

/096 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV :MLEVITSKY:KR

APPROVED BY EUR: JAARMITAGE

NEA/IAI - XVUNOVIC

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

D/HA

----- 099717

R 240027Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 209384

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, UR, US, I

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES WHO CHANGE DIRECTIONS IN
VIENNA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE ENTITLED "ISRAEL CONSIDERS
REFUSING VISAS TO SOVIET JEWS GOING WEST," WHICH APPEARED
IN BALTIMORE SUN AUGUST 17.

BEGIN TEXT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 209384

JERUSALEM - THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL

THAT IT REFUSE TO GIVE VISAS TO THE THOUSANDS OF SOVIET JEWS WHO WANT TO LEAVE RUSSIA BUT DO NOT WANT TO COME TO ISRAEL, THOUGH SUCH A MOVE PROBABLY WOULD END ANY CHANCE OF EMIGRATION FOR THEM.

A SECOND PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD BAR ALL INTERNATIONAL JEWISH AID GROUPS FROM HELPING SOVIET JEWS WHO DO RECEIVE ISRAELI VISAS BUT WANT TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA OR OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE TWO MEASURES ARE MEANT TO HALT THE DECLINING IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL. ABOUT HALF OF THE 1,350

JEWS LEAVING THE SOVIET UNION EACH MONTH NOW CHOOSE TO GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

BOTH PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED ON MORAL GROUNDS DURING DISCUSSIONS HERE, FOR AN ISRAELI IMMIGRANT'S VISA GENERALLY IS THE ONLY WAY FOR A JEW TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STUDYING THE MEASURES ALSO HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE MOSCOW WITH A POTENTIAL PROPAGANDA ISSUE IF THEY ARE ADOPTED.

YET SO GRAVE IS THE CONCERN HERE ABOUT DECLINING IMMIGRATION IN GENERAL -- AS MANY PERSONS LEFT ISRAEL LAST YEAR, ABOUT 20,000, AS ARRIVED -- THAT ADOPTION OF ONE, PERHAPS BOTH, IS EXPECTED LATER THIS MONTH, ACCORDING TO SOURCES AT THE JEWISH AGENCY, WHICH ADMINISTERS THE IMMIGRATION PROGRAM.

BOTH MEASURES NOW ARE UNDER STUDY BY AN EIGHT-MAN COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT MADE THE DESIRE OF SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE FIVE YEARS AGO.

THE AMERICAN GROUPS ARE PUSHING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO DENY IMMIGRANT VISAS TO THOSE SOVIET JEWS JUDGED LIKELY TO DROP OUT IN VIENNA, A DECISION THAT COULD BECOME HIGHLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 209384

ARBITRARY, ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO THE STUDY COMMITTEE.

THE ISRAELI PREFERENCE, HOWEVER, WOULD BE TO GRANT VISAS TO MOST SOVIET JEWS WANTING TO EMIGRATE BUT THEN PROHIBIT ALL ASSISTANCE -- AIR FARES, TEMPORARY HOUSING, RESETTLEMENT ALLOWANCES AND VISA SPONSORSHIP -- IF THEY CHOOSE TO GO TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, THE SOURCES SAID.

"NO ONE WANTS TO BE IN THE POSITION OF BEARING THE BURDEN OF KEEPING JEWS LOCKED INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION," ONE PARTICIPANT IN THE DISCUSSIONS SAID. "THE JEWISH AGENCY DOES NOT WANT TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVENTING AS MANY JEWS FROM EMIGRATING AS THE KGB (SOVIET SECRET POLICE) HAS BEEN."

BUT ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE VIENNA DROPOUT RATE, WHICH GREW FROM ABOUT 10 PER CENT IN 1972 TO A PEAK OF 52 PER

CENT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

FOR ISRAEL, MORE IS INVOLVED THAN JUST THE EMBARRASSMENT OF BEING REJECTED BY THE SOVIET EMIGRANTS SINCE THE COUNTRY STILL DEPENDS HEAVILY FOR ITS GROWTH ON A STEADY FLOW OF IMMIGRANTS.

ONE WAY TO REDUCE THE PROBLEM WOULD BE TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HEBREW IMMIGRANT ATD SOCIETY (HIAS), AN AMERICAN GROUP THAT VIRTUALLY COMPETES IN VIENNA, ROME, BRUSSELS AND OTHER CENTERS FOR SOVIET JEWS, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI OFFICIALS.

"THE SCENE IN VIENNA IS UNSEEMLY, TO SAY THE LEAST, WITH ALL THE BLATANT PROMISES THE HIAS PEOPLE MAKE," ONE JEWISH AGENCY SOURCE SAID.

ANTI-ZIONIST JEWISH GROUPS ALSO HAVE OFFICES IN VIENNA AND ROME AND TRY TO CONVINCE ARRIVING SOVIET JEWS NOT TO GO TO ISRAEL AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WANTING TO GO TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 209384

UNITED STATES INSTEAD.

SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO PROPOSALS HAVE ARGUED IN THE OFTEN HEATED DISCUSSIONS HERE THAT THE CONTINUED HIGH RATE OF DROPOUTS IN VIENNA ENDANGERS THE WHOLE EFFORT TO PERSUADE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO LET JEWS EMIGRATE, FOR IT UNDERMINES THE BASIC RATIONALE OF FAMILY REUNION AND OF RETURN TO A NATIONAL HOMELAND WHERE JEWS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR IDENTITY, HAVE ACCESS TO JEWISH CULTURE AND BE FREE FROM ANTI-SEMITISM.

THEY ALSO HAVE ARGUED THAT THOSE ALLOWED TO LEAVE AS ISRAELI IMMIGRANTS BUT GO INSTEAD TO THE UNITED STATES POSSIBLY ARE DEPRIVING REAL IMMIGRANTS OF SOVIET EXIT VISAS.

SOVIET JEWS WHO HAVE COME TO ISRAEL ATTRIBUTE THE HIGH DROPOUT RATE, WHICH HAS BEEN A HOTLY DEBATED MATTER HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, TO THE OFTEN HIGHLY CRITICAL VIEWS OF ISRAEL OF THOSE WHO HAVE COME HERE AND WRITE THEIR FAMILIES BACK IN THE SOVIET UNION.

RUSSIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE JEWISH," SAID HERMAN BRANOVER, AN ENGINEER WHO EMIGRATED FROM THE SOVIET UNION SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND NOW HEADS A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT GROUP HERE.

THEY ARE ROOTLESS, HAVE TOO LITTLE FEELING FOR THE LAND AND CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE. SO THE REASON FOR THEIR ALIENATION IS NOT THAT THINGS ARE BAD HERE, BUT THAT THEY FEEL THEY DO NOT BELONG.'

BUT DISENCHANTMENT IS NOT CONFINED TO SOVIET JEWS -- 40 PER CENT OF AMERICAN, CANADIAN, AUSTRALIAN AND EUROPEAN JEWS WHO COME TO ISRAEL AS IMMIGRANTS NOW LEAVE WITHIN FIVE YEARS, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT FIGURES. KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, JEWS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE209384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLEVITSKY:KR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760322-0920
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760825/aaaaauzj.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES WHO CHANGE DIRECTIONS IN VIENNA
TAGS: SREF, PFOR, UR, US, IS
To: TEL AVIV MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006